

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph after the title of the application on page 1 with the following rewritten paragraph:

This application is a divisional application of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/442,192, now U.S. Patent No. 6,610,087, filed on November 16, 1999.

Please replace the paragraph, beginning at page 7, line 1, with the following rewritten paragraph:

FIG. 2 is a side view of a bifurcated modular stent-graph according to the present invention in an unassembled configuration, with the graft illustrated in a transparent format to show the stent scaffolding underneath.

Please replace the paragraph, beginning at page 19, line 21, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Another way for providing regions of a stent having different manipulation properties is to vary the cross-sectional area of the structural elements of the stent. Thus, referring now to FIG. 7, for a metal wire stent 200, wire 202 in flexible region 224 may have a smaller diameter d_1 than wire 204 in the stiff region 226 having a diameter d_2 . For non-wire stents, such as laser-cut tubular stents, the metal left between the laser-cut slots may be thicker in the stiff region than in the flexible region. Where it is desired to provide a gradient in manipulation properties from one region to another, wire 206 in transition region 252 may be an intermediate thickness d_3 , or wires 202, 204, and 206 may together form a continuous wire having a diameter gradient between flexible region 224 and stiff region 226 decreasing from $[d_4 \text{ to } d_3 \text{ to } d_2 \text{ to } d_1]$ $d_2 \text{ to } d_3 \text{ to } d_4 \text{ to } d_1$.